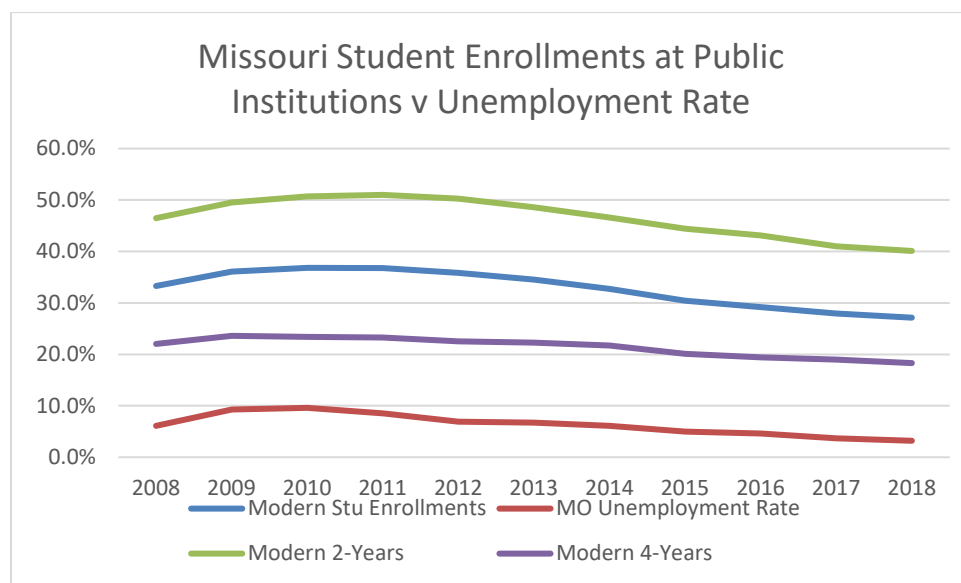


## Tab 11 Modern Student Engagement Strategy

Coordinating Board for Higher Education  
June 17, 2020

### BACKGROUND

With the COVID-19 pandemic sweeping the nation, the 2020 DHEWD placemat initiative to develop a quality attainment strategy for modern students has become more critical as we look to economic recovery in the state. An important facet to economic recovery is reskilling, training, and educating our workforce, especially in identified critical employment sectors. Data from the past decade identify a correlation between increased unemployment rates and increased modern student enrollment in Missouri. With increased unemployment due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it can be expected modern students will return to or start postsecondary education in the near future to aid in successful re-entry into the workforce.



DHEWD staff define modern students as students that meet any of these indicators:

- Age (over the age of 24)
- Has dependents
- Has independent student status
- Works off-campus, full-time, or to support self/dependents
- Has been out of school for more than one year
- Is a returning student
- Married
- Military-involved
- Foster child
- Justice-involved

It is important to note that with the COVID-19 pandemic and the disruptions it has caused throughout the world, any student may now be defined as a modern student.

## **CURRENT STATUS**

In speaking with institutional stakeholders this spring after the effects of COVID-19 became more apparent on budgets, staffing, and resources, it has been determined institutional resources are limited, and there is not enough institutional capacity to take on significant new initiatives at this time.

## **NEXT STEPS**

DHEWD staff will complete and disseminate an After Action Report that identifies best practices put in place in response to COVID-19. This report will highlight practices with institutions and organizations across the country so as to become a resource for Missouri institutions. This report is expected to be completed by December 2020, so as to allow staff time to research practices and collect data on success and outcomes.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

This is an information item only.

## **NO ATTACHMENTS**